26 Coleshill St Grosvenor Sqr
Feb 3
1859

My dear Tom

I crave pardon for so long a silence, but have had such a weight of "eating cares" that I had the power of writing or going to you — After doing a most extensive work considered by some to be the best of all my works & some mean fellows or fellows at the R.A. with personal spite put away my picture where only the persevering could find it. I that was only, not to be able to see it — I confess to you that it has taken me by surprise as I had done the work "con amore" & been more than ½ a year at it & I was struck down in spirits

from which I think must recommend it
was both to see you as we do
resemble each other in so many
things I should not - My picture
I sent to Worcester exhibition
as I was invited & there are
many of the Kind of people who
sometimes patronise me, there
at all events my name will be
writ in water" as the Severn
runs alongside the city -
Yet I am in good health &
striving for a place in the
gift of the Queen - I confess I
don't know a stone unturned
but I have not a doubt I
shall not get it or any thing
else & that I shall have plenty

& friends & Ruth me & Fan
Ally daughter on the contrary is
very successful this year & seems
to be helped by the photographing
which certainly has so much
injured me
How I like you & Christmas
are quite rude & for once you
are quite unlike me – & Ruth
your charming children are
all well & Ruth some day
they will come & pay us a
visits or that we shall ask
you to visit them – When such
such pleasant things come
off – My saddest wish is
that I expended every penny
I had in the world on this
picture

I don't know when I may sell its
or if ever - I am afraid I will
sad plight I will not one single
order of any kind - Some good
may turn up as in other periods
of my life but all my good things
always seem to be "soaped tailed pigs"
This year my gains have been topsy

I will soon go & see you all
now the weather is cool - Give my
love to dear Marcia & thank you
& Helen me. Your loving bro Will
Joe

Letters or Pro. ev. or Sunday ev.
While I am go to you at your
tea time as then I am sure to
find. Have can talk over the subject
you wrote me about